

# Wood Post Layout & Installation for In-Ground Application

This pergola can also be installed on a pre-existing wood or concrete surface using our bolt down bracket system with a 4x4 wood post (sold separately). See page eight for more details.

Post location and placement is the most critical step in the overall installation process. Please double check for the possibility of any underground utilities such as sprinkler, gas or telephone lines.

## STEP ONE

Measure and mark out the location of the pergola posts using string line and temporary wood stakes. Diagonal distances must be the same to ensure a square installation. Adjust string lines accordingly. The inside corner of the string lines will be the post location.

### **Please Note:**

Should you decide to moderately modify the dimensions of your pergola from the standard kit size, a circular saw with a sharp fine-tooth blade is all that you need to cut, shorten or modify the vinyl components. The steel stiffeners for the main beams and rafters can be cut down using either a hacksaw or a motorized cutting device designed to cut steel.

## STEP TWO

### **Install Wood Supporting Posts Directly into the Ground**

**1**

After you have determined where the posts will be located, excavate 10" diameter x 36" deep post holes.

**2**

After holes are dug and cleaned, place the 4x4 wood post into a hole ensuring it's level and square to string lines. The final post height should be no more than 84" out of the ground. If a post is higher because of obstructed excavation of footings, please cut down in height accordingly.

**3**

Fill the vacant hole with pre-mixed concrete all the way to within 3" of the top of the hole.

**4**

Repeat for all four posts.

### **Please Note:**

Some 4x4 pressure treated posts can be larger than 3 1/2 x 3 1/2 square due to twisting or cracking. We have allowed a tolerance for this in the internal one way and two way 4x4 wood post guides (see page 8). However in extreme cases you may need to shave down the top of the 4x4 wood post slightly to get the vinyl post started over the wood post. Before installing your wood posts in the ground, please check to confirm this and correct at this stage if necessary.

